

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 206965  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S:PTARNOFF

APPROVED BY:MR. TARNOFF

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O 301708Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 206965

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 6000 ACTION SECSTATE AUG 30

QUOTE E C R E T JIDDA 6000

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PLO, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI CONTACTS WITH PLO

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD FOR APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR AND A HALF ON AUG 28. SAUD SAID HE HAD SUGGESTED MEETING TO UPDATE USG ON PLO SITUATION. ARAFAT HAD HAD LONG SESSION WITH SAUD ON PREVIOUS DAY AND PLO REP HANI AL-HASSAN WAS IN SAUD'S OFFICE ON AUG 28 CAUSING HOUR'S DELAY IN SAUD APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR. AS MEETING BEGAN SAUD HANDED AMBASSADOR TEXT OF PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECLARATION ON 18TH OF AUGUST WHICH REAFFIRMED DECISION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO UN

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RESOLUTION 242 AS WELL AS TEXT OF STATEMENT OF PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL ON AUG 25 REAFFIRMING THE DECISION. EMBASSY TRANSLATION WILL BE SENT SEPTTEL.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER EVIDENTLY HAD HAD GLOVES-OFF TALK WITH PLO AND, IN HIS WORDS, DISCUSSION HAD BEEN EXCEEDINGLY FRANK. SAUD SAID HE TOOK PLO TO

TASK FOR NOT FOLLOWING THROUGH AND ESPECIALLY FOR PUBLICLY CRITICIZING U.S. POSITION WHEN U.S. WAS MAKING "EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT." ARAFAT REPLIED THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD PRAISED EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT AND REGRETTED THE PUBLIC CRITICISM BY THE PLO. PLO HAD TAKEN ITS POSITION, HOWEVER, BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT GETTING FOR PALESTINIANS THE SAME TREATMENT BEING GIVEN TO ISRAEL, NAMELY THE GUARANTEE OF AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY. PLO SAID THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF 242 WOULD GIVE THEM NO QUID PRO QUO IN NEGOTIATIONS AS IT WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE RECOGNITION OF PLO BY USG OR ANY FURTHER ASSURANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD PLO THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN USG AND PLO WOULD AMOUNT TO DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF PLO BY U.S. AND THAT FURTHER RECOGNITION IS UN-REALISTIC IN THE ABSENCE OF FORMAL GOVERNMENT STATUS. THESE STEPS WOULD PRESUMABLY COME AS A RESULT OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD SAID THAT ARAFAT WAS GOING TO RUSSIA THIS WEEK AT RUSSIAN INVITATION--SOVIETS WERE SENDING A SPECIAL PLANE FOR HIM. HE SAID THAT ARAFAT WAS EVIDENTLY PLAYING SOVIET ANGLE FOR HE REPORTED TO HIM THAT NEGOTIATION ATTEMPTS AT UN MEETING IN NEW YORK WOULD CONSTITUTE ATTEMPT TO  
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CIRCUMVENT OR MINIMIZE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. SAUDI SAID THAT ARAFAT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IS FOR PURPOSE OF SECURING ADDITIONAL SOVIET BACKING FOR PLO PARTICIPATION IN MEPC. FOREIGN MINISTER FELT NO FURTHER STEPS WITH PLO WORTHWHILE UNTIL AFTER ARAFAT'S RETURN FROM MOSCOW. HE PROMISED FULL REPORT AFTER ARAFAT'S SCHEDULED BRIEFING WITH HIM AT THAT TIME.

5. SAUD STATED THAT PLO HAD INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT ANY KIND OF INFORMAL GUARANTEE WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE U.S. COMMITMENT FOR INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN ENTITY, IF AN INFORMAL GUARANTEE WOULD BE EASIER FOR USG TO GIVE THAN A FORMAL COMMITMENT. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT U.S. WAS COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND THAT WE CANNOT PREJUDGE OUTCOME OF SELF-DETERMINATION PROCESS BY COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME TO COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT ENTITY. SAUD LIKENED THE PROPOSED U.S. COMMITMENT TO A NATIONALIST PALESTINIAN ENTITY TO THE USG'S AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO UNTIL THE PLO RECOGNIZED ISRAELI RIGHT TO EXIST.

6. SAUD CONTINUES TO BE OPTIMISTIC THAT QUESTIONS OF SEMANTICS AND PROCEDURE CAN BE SOLVED WITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH PLO BEING NEXT MAJOR PEACE BREAKTHROUGH. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT PLO HAD IMPRESSION, PRESUMABLY THROUGH EGYPTIAN CONTACTS, THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PLO CONTEMPLATED BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WOULD POSSIBLY BE AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL--NOT AT PRESIDENTIAL OR SECRETARIAL LEVEL. SAUD THOUGHT THAT DIRECT CONTACT WITH SECRETARY OR PRESIDENT WOULD HELP IMMEASURABLY IN SATISFYING PLO REQUIREMENTS. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT HE FELT THAT PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION WOULD BE COMPLETELY SECRET

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IMPOSSIBLE AND SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH PLO. WEST. UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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